

couldn't tell you when viability was but that life support systems that could maintain this creature once outside the womb would be a good standard or a good indication when human life began. So I submit to you that this is the heart of the Nebraska Abortion Bill and to strike it would defeat the purpose and the goal we worked at three years ago of four years ago, whatever it was, when we first worked on this bill. I can tell you that those 8 or 10 or 12 lines you're looking at in those two sections had more man hours than probably 99% of all the bills that go through this Legislature, of legal time by myself and untold numbers of lawyers throughout the state and that this was the method we arrived at to try to in the future force a test in the very major gap that the Supreme Court left and drive back the date upon which abortions can be performed.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR DEKAMP: So I urge you to completely reject Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: I rise in opposition of Senator Chambers' amendment. We're talking about, as I see it, a live human being, a baby, a fetus, whatever definition you want to call it. We're talking about a live human being, a baby, or a fetus outside of the mother's womb whether this occurred through the normal birth process or through a cesarean section or through a process called abortion, it seems to me it makes no difference. I think we give this human being, this baby, this fetus, whatever definition you want to assess to it every protection we give every other human being and I would hope that this amendment of Senator Chambers be struck and that we get on with this section. I think we can do that at this point.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, senators. If you had stopped and looked at Section 44, the protection is written into Section 44. "No abortion shall be performed or prescribed after the unborn child has reached viability, except when necessary to preserve the woman from an imminent peril that substantially endangers her life or health." In Nebraska, this is the only time that an abortion may be performed after six months and what you are saying in effect is, hey medical doctor we in the Legislature know more than you do about the best way to preserve the mother's life. Section 45 is in effect saying, we will not allow you the choice of the best method to preserve the mother's life. We will force you to use another method because we may, I say may, be able to save the life of the fetus. After six months, an abortion is not lightly taken. Before three months is when the majority of the abortions is performed. After six months, it's the mother who has nine children who may not live through this tense delivery. We are saying to the medical profession, we know more about your way of practicing medicine and we will not allow you the full range of medical procedures. We will limit them. I support Senator Chambers' motion to remove Section 45. Our safeguards are still in the bill in Section 44.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simon.